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SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov [www.bls.gov/regions/southeast](http://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast)

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

## **Consumer Price Index for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater – September 2019** **Area prices down 0.1 percent since July; up 1.5 percent over the year**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater inched down 0.1 percent from July to September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index declined 4.9 percent since July. During this same period, the all items less food and energy index was up 0.4 percent and the food index was up 0.1 percent. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U increased 1.5 percent. The all items less food and energy index advanced 2.3 percent and the food index rose 1.9 percent over the year. The energy index fell 8.0 percent over the past 12 months. ([See table 1.](#))

### **Food**

The food index was little changed from July to September, up 0.1 percent. An increase in the food at home index (0.3 percent) was partially offset by a decline in the food away from home index (-0.2 percent).

The food index rose 1.9 percent from September 2018 to September 2019, reflecting increases in both the food away from home (2.9 percent) and food at home (1.3 percent) indexes.

### **Energy**

The energy index declined 4.9 percent from July to September, fueled by a 9.2- percent drop in the gasoline index. The electricity and the utility (piped) gas service indexes were unchanged since July.

The energy index fell 8.0 percent for the 12 months ending September 2019, led by a 13.3-percent decline in the gasoline index. The electricity index also declined over the past 12 months, down 1.5 percent, while the utility (piped) gas service index rose 2.0 percent over the year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent from July to September. Several indexes increased since July including apparel (10.4 percent) and medical care (1.1 percent). In contrast, the shelter index edged down 0.2 percent over the bi-monthly period.

From September 2018 to September 2019, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.3 percent, led by a 3.7-percent increase in the shelter index. Over the past 12 months, the education and communication index declined 4.8 percent.

**Table A. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2018		2019	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	0.8		-1.1	0.4
March .....	0.6		1.9	1.7
May.....	0.4		0.9	2.2
July .....	0.3		0.1	2.1
September.....	0.6		-0.1	1.5
November.....	-0.3	2.3		

**The Consumer Price Index for October 2019 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, November 13, 2019.**

### Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Sep. 2018	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	229.334	-	229.219	1.5	-0.1	-
Food and beverages .....	232.648	-	232.851	2.1	0.1	-
Food .....	233.082	-	233.204	1.9	0.1	-
Food at home .....	233.792	231.826	234.429	1.3	0.3	1.1
Cereals and bakery products .....	267.806	-	260.591	-0.1	-2.7	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	225.375	-	223.833	1.6	-0.7	-
Dairy and related products .....	212.309	-	221.650	-0.4	4.4	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	329.918	-	331.807	5.0	0.6	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	170.983	-	172.978	2.6	1.2	-
Other food at home .....	189.263	-	190.521	-1.2	0.7	-
Food away from home.....	231.033	-	230.490	2.9	-0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	211.467	-	212.730	5.0	0.6	-
Housing .....	234.144	-	233.636	3.6	-0.2	-
Shelter .....	268.720	268.591	268.149	3.7	-0.2	-0.2
Rent of primary residence .....	271.615	273.113	272.289	4.1	0.2	-0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences .....	282.538	282.590	282.116	3.4	-0.1	-0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence .....	282.538	282.590	282.116	3.4	-0.1	-0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	212.027	-	212.024	-0.1	0.0	-
Household energy .....	167.017	166.904	167.013	-1.5	0.0	0.1
Energy Services .....	164.471	164.470	164.537	-1.5	0.0	0.0
Electricity .....	161.585	161.585	161.651	-1.5	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	240.657	240.646	240.646	2.0	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	122.559	-	121.929	7.2	-0.5	-
Apparel .....	138.191	-	152.571	-1.0	10.4	-
Transportation .....	203.388	-	200.453	-1.0	-1.4	-
Private transportation .....	209.298	-	205.051	-1.7	-2.0	-
New and used motor vehicles(1).....	108.724	-	108.226	1.9	-0.5	-
New vehicles .....	123.320	-	123.677	2.8	0.3	-
Used cars and trucks.....	136.539	-	132.800	2.7	-2.7	-
Motor fuel .....	284.155	260.287	258.239	-13.3	-9.1	-0.8
Gasoline (all types).....	278.208	254.708	252.699	-13.3	-9.2	-0.8
Unleaded regular(2) .....	271.743	246.875	244.693	-13.8	-10.0	-0.9
Unleaded midgrade(2)(3) .....	242.490	234.993	233.110	-8.5	-3.9	-0.8
Unleaded premium(2).....	288.625	279.429	279.677	-10.3	-3.1	0.1
Motor vehicle insurance .....	572.561	-	572.561	1.1	0.0	-
Medical Care .....	395.567	-	399.837	3.2	1.1	-
Recreation(1).....	121.799	-	121.785	-1.5	0.0	-
Education and communication(1).....	132.762	-	132.636	-4.8	-0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care .....	628.024	-	631.962	1.6	0.6	-
Other goods and services .....	302.303	-	297.271	0.2	-1.7	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	229.334	-	229.219	1.5	-0.1	-
Commodities .....	175.275	-	174.152	-0.4	-0.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	145.752	-	144.174	-2.0	-1.1	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	210.482	-	207.055	-5.1	-1.6	-
Durables .....	91.234	-	90.787	1.6	-0.5	-
Services.....	277.352	-	278.126	2.6	0.3	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Sep. 2018	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019
All items less medical care .....	220.380	-	220.039	1.3	-0.2	-
All items less shelter.....	213.096	-	213.175	0.3	0.0	-
Commodities less food .....	149.116	-	147.595	-1.7	-1.0	-
Nondurables .....	221.573	-	220.012	-1.3	-0.7	-
Nondurables less food.....	210.632	-	207.527	-4.4	-1.5	-
Services less rent of shelter .....	283.563	-	286.000	1.3	0.9	-
Services less medical care services.....	264.667	-	264.822	2.4	0.1	-
Energy .....	212.972	203.228	202.462	-8.0	-4.9	-0.4
All items less energy .....	230.409	-	231.202	2.3	0.3	-
All items less food and energy .....	230.213	-	231.111	2.3	0.4	-

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.